

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The Examiner is thanked for considering claims 6, 7, 9, 10 and 13 to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 7 and 10 are amended, and claims 6 and 9 are cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter is added.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Further, the amendments and remarks presented herein are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, the amendments and remarks are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

As this paper is submitted within the three-month term for reply set by the September 6, 2005 Office Action, no fee is believed due. If, however, a fee is necessary for consideration of this paper, authorization is given to charge the amount of any such fee, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2525.

II. 35 U.S.C. §§102/103 REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,511,836 to Hess et al.; claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Hess patent; and claims 1-4, 8, 11, 12 and 14-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Breu et al. published application WO 02/20488.

Although Applicants traverse the rejections, the amendments to the claims render the rejections moot. Consequently, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any issues with respect to this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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